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**Patrick Johnston Named President and CEO of the
California Association of Health Plans**

***20-Year Veteran of State Legislature Brings Wealth of Experience and
Reputation for Collaboration***

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California Association of Health Plans (CAHP) today announced that former legislator Patrick Johnston has been selected to serve as the organization's president and chief executive officer. Mr. Johnston, who served in the California Legislature for two decades, will begin his new role on July 1, 2009.

"Patrick brings a wealth of experience working within the state Capitol and valuable expertise on some of the most critical and complex public policy issues facing Californians," said Howard Kahn, chair of the CAHP Board of Directors and CEO of L.A. Care Health Plan, the nation's largest public health plan. "With health care reform in Washington and our own state budget crisis, it was important for the board to find a CEO who is well-respected in Sacramento and able to build effective partnerships."

Mr. Johnston's background prepares him well for his new position. For 20 years, Mr. Johnston served in the state Legislature, where he was frequently involved with important health care and insurance issues. Mr. Johnston was a member of the Assembly for 10 years and served in the Senate for an additional 10 years. For six years during his tenure in the Senate, Mr. Johnston chaired the Appropriations Committee.

Beyond his years in the legislature, Mr. Johnston has served in a number of important capacities. He was the first legislator in residence at the University of California, Berkeley Institute of Government. He has also served as vice chairman of the California Bay-Delta Authority, which oversees the implementation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Mr. Johnston is a graduate of St. Patrick's College and holds a Master's Degree from California State University, Sacramento in political representation.

"Ensuring Californians have access to high-quality and affordable health care is of the utmost importance," said Mr. Johnston. "There are complex and important decisions facing California's health care industry, and I look forward to working with the administration, the legislature and all stakeholders to address these issues in a collaborative and productive manner."

In addition, CAHP announced Charles Bacchi was promoted to the position of CAHP executive vice president. He had previously served as CAHP's vice president of legislative affairs.

CAHP is a statewide trade association representing 39 full-service health plans. Through legislative advocacy, education and collaboration with other member organizations, CAHP works to sustain a strong environment in which our member plans can provide access to products that offer choice and flexibility to the more than 24 million members they serve. For more information, please visit www.calhealthplans.org or call (916) 552-2910.